Official definition of minorities

†1781. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any official definition of minority;

(b) whether there is any State-wise list thereof and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the cases of recognition of minorities are pending in courts;

(d) whether Parsis have ever requested for recognition; and

(e) whether there are some special minorities amongst the said minorities?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) (b) and (d) Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992, defines *"minority"*, as:

' "Minority" *for the purposes of this Act, means a community notified as such by the Central Government.'*

Accordingly, the Central Government has notified five religious communities, *viz.*, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) as minority communities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

Programmes for minorities

1782. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government has taken to implement Prime Minister's 15 point programme for minorities; and

(b) whether there is a programme to improve the housing condition of minorities?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities was announced in June, 2006. The programme provides for earmarking of 15% of targets and outlays for minorities under schemes included in the programme and considered amenable to such earmarking. The programme is available on the website of the Ministry at *www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.* The programme, *inter-alia* includes the Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) and the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), both of which have earmarking of targets for minorities.

Programmes for welfare of minorities in Goa

1783. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States in which Prime Minister's new 15-Point Programme for the welfare of minorities is implemented;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.